

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATICS SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 4001
9 January 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Abidjan Bureau - December 1983

I. GENERAL

The problems connected with extensive power rationing in Abidjan are affecting bureau operations and the lives of FBIS employees and their families. Commercial power in Ivory Coast, about 90 percent of which is normally provided by hydroelectric generating plants, is now supplied by a single obsolete, poorly maintained thermal plant. Power outages of 10 to 12 hours per day are the norm. The bureau is consistently without commercial power from about 0800-1800 daily, and there are frequent outages of two hours or more at night as well. When commercial power to the embassy is cut, TCU's satellite antenna often fails to track properly and the bureau loses communications until the antenna is reoriented manually. This usually takes only a few minutes during normal embassy working hours, but at night or on weekends when TCU operators must be called in, commo outages are lengthier. During power outages the bureau relies on a 12kw generator to maintain operations. The bureau generator supplies power for receivers, printers and communications equipment, but does not have enough capacity to provide air conditioning. Bureau employees are coping sweatily in Abidjan's pervasive heat and humidity.

Family life is also badly affected by lengthy daily power outages. Routine household chores that require electricity, such as laundry, ironing and vacuuming, must be concentrated in a few hours during the evening. Children attending the International School must work in sweltering, poorly lit classrooms. Food kept in freezers is beginning to spoil. This is a financial problem for some people, since frozen food traditionally has been purchased in bulk from the U. S., often in large quantity. One embassy family with a failing freezer gave a party and served \$400 worth of steak that would have spoiled otherwise. Bureau engineer [] has tied one large freezer into the line served by the generator, thus providing FBIS employees with some communal food storage capacity. Little relief from these conditions is expected until late February or early March. The embassy is ordering generators for residences, with enough capacity to run air conditioners as well as lights and kitchen appliances, and these should be installed by that time. The bureau will be acquiring a 66kw generator which will enable us to provide air conditioning throughout the building.

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II. OPERATIONS

Editorial/Monitorial

1. The year 1983 did not end uneventfully at Abidjan Bureau. On 31 December the bureau opened earlier than usual, at 0530, to monitor a speech by Ghanaian leader Jerry Rawlings marking the second anniversary of his assumption of power. Shortly before 0800, however, the bureau was alerted by the wire to a report saying that a coup was in progress in Nigeria. The bureau immediately began an open-speaker watch on Nigerian media and shortly thereafter monitored a broadcast by a Nigerian Armed Forces spokesman announcing that the military was taking over from President Shehu Shagari's government to put an end to the "serious economic predicament and crisis of confidence afflicting the nation." The bureau filed a series of flash FYI's on the initial announcement. Additional staff was called in and an extra evening shift was added, which in fact lasted until the arrival of day shift in the early hours of the new year.

The bureau's open watch on this essentially bloodless and precisely executed coup d'etat was extended to a number of Nigerian regional stations, Lagos International Service and the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN). The behavior of and reports from the regional radios proved to be a good barometer of the military takeover's success. In the ensuing 48-72 hours the bureau filed numerous unique items from diverse sources. It was satisfying to see AFP picking up -- via the BBC Monitoring Service -- a number of our reports and media behavior FYI's. Indeed, the BBC Newsburo noted that Abidjan's monitoring was the "first with the news" on Nigerian developments, adding that "your constant stream of reports kept us ahead of the competition most of the time, particularly on the first day. It was also pleasing to note the frequency with which BBC World Service ran stories based exclusively on monitoring. Regional radio and NAN was also very valuable as it helped give a more general picture of the situation." To date the bureau has filed nearly 50,000 words on the coup and its aftermath.

2. Earlier, the bureau maintained a close watch and filed some of the first reports on events in Senegal and Guinea. A series of strong earthquakes in Guinea leveled 16 villages, leaving more than 400 dead and many injured, while secessionist riots in Senegal's Casamance Province in 7 and 18 December resulted in over 20 dead and scores injured.

III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

1. Monitors [redacted] were promoted STAT
during December, to FBN 9/6 and 9/7 respectively.

2. Monitor [redacted] resigned effective 30 December to take a STAT
job with the African Development Bank.

[redacted] STAT

Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau

ARIDIAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR DECEMBER 83

TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	217,520
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	17,020
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	620

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:

(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)	7,125	28,220	124
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III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

ANGOLA

LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH 400

LUANDA DOMSTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH 2,920

LUANDA ANGOP IN

PORTUGUESE

LUANDA ANGOP IN

FRENCH 2,650

BENIN

COTONOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH 2,550

COTONOU EHUZU IN

FRENCH

CAMEROON

YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH 2,310

YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH 1,610

CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN

FRENCH

CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN

ENGLISH

CONGO

BRAZZAVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH 5,220

BRAZZAVILLE BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN

IN FRENCH

BRAZZAVILLE ETUMBA IN

FRENCH

CHAD

(CLANDESTINE) BARDAI CHADIAN

NATIONAL RADIO

5,460

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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FRANCE

PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH	28,800	
PARIS AFP IN FRENCH	19,920	
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN ENGLISH		
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN FRENCH	10,800	

GABON

LIBREVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,170	
LIBREVILLE L'UNION IN FRENCH		
LIBREVILLE AFRICA NO.1 IN FRENCH	2,240	

GHANA

ACCRA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	20,250	
ACCRA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA GHANAIAN TIMES IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA DAILY GRAPHIC IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA WEEKLY SPECTATOR IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA THE MIRROR IN ENGLISH		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
GUINEA			
CONAKRY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	9,220		
CONAKRY HOROYA IN FRENCH			
IVORY COAST			
ABIDJAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	1,230		
ABIDJAN FRATERNITE MATIN IN FRENCH			4,180
LIBERIA			
MONROVIA RADIO ELWA IN ENGLISH	2,050		
MONROVIA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	5,100		
MONROVIA EXPRESS IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA LIBERIAN INAUGURAL IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA NEW LIBERIAN IN ENGLISH			
MONROVIA THE SUND PEOPLE IN ENGLISH			
MALI			
BAMAKO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	20,340		
BAMAKO L'ESSOR IN FRENCH			
MAURITANIA			
NOUAKCHOTT DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	3,460		
NOUAKCHOTT CHAAB IN FRENCH			
NIGER			
NIAMENY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH			
NIAMENY LE SAHEL IN FRENCH			
NIAMENY SAHEL HEBDO IN FRENCH			

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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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NIGERIA

LAGOS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

14,740

LAGOS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

750

KADUNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

480

NIGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (NAN) IN

ENGLISH

17,070

CALABA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

IBADAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

SOKOTO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

880

SENEGAL

DAKAR DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

4,610

DAKAR LE SOLEIL IN

FRENCH

DAKAR PANA IN ENGLISH

1,590

DAKAR PANA IN FRENCH

530

SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

260

FREETOWN DAILY MAIL IN

ENGLISH

TOGO

LOME DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

3,150

TOGO NOUVELLE MARCHE IN

FRENCH

UPPER VOLTA

OUAGADOUGOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

15,160

OUAGADOUGOU L'OBSERVATEUR IN

FRENCH

ZAIRE

KINSHASA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

890

KINSHASA AZAP IN

FRENCH

4,330

KINSHASA ELIMA IN

FRENCH

LUBUMBASHI NJUMBE IN

FRENCH

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